Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP), being implemented in the State, also help in uplifting the rural poor above the poverty line. The Central and State Governments together had allocated Rs. 3668.55 lakh under SGSY for Jharkhand during the year 2001-02. No allocation was made for IWDP and DPAP, as these arc not allocation based programmes.

Constitution of a Committee for assessment of Rural Development Schemes

† 3300. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have constituted Committee for assessment of rural development schemes being implemented in various States of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the dates on which the said Committee/ Group made inspections togethcrwith the names of the States where inspection was made and the details of shortcomings found out by it; and

(c) the necessary steps taken by Government to ensure the cent per cent utilization of the funds allocated and actually released by the Government for successful implementation of rural schemes?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU): (a) to (c) A Performance Review Committee has been constituted for the assessment of the progress of Rural Development Schemes being implemented in various States of the country. This Committee is chaired by Secretary (RD), Ministry of Rural Development, and consists of representatives from the Ministry of Rural Development, Planning Commission, Ministry of Finance, Deptt. of Programme Implementation, Ministry of Environment and Forests and Secretary (RD) of all the States/ U.Ts. The Committee periodically reviews the performance of **rural** development programmes and impress upon the States to accelerate the pace of the implementation of the programmes and to effectively utilise the funds within stipulated time. However, the Committee is not required to do inspections as per the terms of reference.

Task force for generating new employment opportunities in rural areas

3301. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a task force has been constituted at the initiative of the

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.